



Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

Office of Community Engagement

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Plainfield Highlights Pre-K Program & Transition To 3rd Grade Initiative

*Office of Early Childhood Education Program & Services a leader in
Pre-K in New Jersey*

Implementation, Curriculum Alignment, Child Development & Parent/Community Connection

February 7, 2019 - Plainfield Public Schools' preschool program has emerged as a leader in New Jersey's Pre-K Program and among those identified by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to implement the initiative for children transitioning from Kindergarten to Third grade.

Evelyn Motley, Director of Plainfield Public Schools Early Childhood Programs and Services (OEC), highlighted the program during a presentation Tuesday before the Plainfield Board of Education.

Ms. Motley credited the success of the EOC program to several factors including implementation, curriculum alignment, child development and parent and community connection.

She said most importantly, the success is due to a cadre of engaged, dedicated, well-trained, educational leaders supported by certified teachers, master teachers and preschool interventionist, who serve as coaches to the teachers in the classroom.

The program has been identified by the NJDOE for its developmentally appropriate practices, the use of data driven instruction, individual child assessments, STEAM programs, social and emotional development and strong family and community connection.

For its work, Ms. Motley announced the Plainfield School District has received a grant from the Nicholson Foundation in partnership with the New Jersey Education Department to implement the *Transforming Early Childhood Leadership Initiative* at Evergreen Elementary School. This work will continue similar initiatives began by Ms. Motley in 2017 at Barlow and Jefferson Elementary schools.

“All in an effort to enhance the district’s Preschool- 3rd grade best practices,” said Evelyn Motley. The goal is to have all elementary schools moving in the direction of a stronger articulation and unifying the district’s programs.

Ms. Motley said a smooth transition for children in Pre-K to Third Grade is important; to support, strengthen and coordinate the children’s early learning experience to produce the best outcomes.

“My mission is to create a strong Pre-K to 3rd grade continuum in Plainfield. To continue our strong curriculum alignment and expand it vertically with teacher collaboration from Pre-K to 3rd grade. This year we will be working closely with principal Ms. BJ Brown and K-3rd grade teachers at Evergreen School.”

Motley said students entering Kindergarten this September will have a preschool electronic portfolio in Genesis (parent/student portal) for teachers to have an early start of knowing where their children are academically that will enable them to plan accordingly.

“As a District we are extremely excited to be implementing this initiative, research has shown that in order to make student outcomes improve, you have to have a K-3 initiative. The state of NJ is now moving in that direction and Plainfield Public Schools is on the cutting edge of this initiative. Our program has already proven that starting the K-3 initiative is working.”

The OEC serves 1,530 3-and-4-year-olds at 17 sites with 102 classrooms.

Evergreen Elementary School has a total student population of approximately 549 students in grades K-5.

For more information, please call 908-731-4333 or email gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us

About the Plainfield OEC Program:

Plainfield Public Schools Early Childhood Programs & Services has been providing high quality preschool services to children for nearly 20 years. The office contracts with 11 community-based childcare providers to provide services to over 1,500 children. All the preschool classrooms implement the HighScope Preschool Curriculum, a curriculum that emphasizes high functioning skills and individual child development. The children learn planning, initiative taking, and both cognitive and social skills. The children enjoy multicultural experiences integrated into the classroom activities. EOC classrooms consist of Model A and Model B classrooms, which offer balanced language instruction. Model A: one Bilingual staff/ Model B: Monolingual staff. The HighScope curriculum promotes independence, curiosity, decision-making, cooperation, persistence, creativity and problem solving – the fundamental skills that help determine success in adult life – *Source OEC.*